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## **Water Helping Us See: Connecting the Knots**

The waters of the east of the Darumbal lands (Fitzroy) and the Woppaburra people (Keppel Islands) give us many things. In the past they provided food and a way of life. Today they provide us with food, recreation, sport and an economic base. Pamela Croft and I are two Aboriginal women living in the Darumbal and Woppaburra region who use art forms and words to describe, demonstrate and give meaning to concepts that involve identity, culture, history, discrimination, law, spirituality, and well-being. We try to do this in a way that shares with others while at the same time educates and questions others and increases meaning for ourselves in the world in which we now. We recently presented a workshop at the Local Government and Community Development and Planning Conference, 9-12<sup>th</sup> July, Yeppoon, Qld. We attempted to explore a number of issues via the use of one of Pamela's large mixed medium artwork that encompasses the ocean's cast-offs.

Pamela and some members of the Joskeleigh community collected the ocean's cast-offs where Woppaburra waters meet Darumbal lands (along the Capricorn Coast). They collected old nets, ropes, feathers, skulls, bits of glass, rubber, and lots of other bits and pieces which were woven into the artwork. The cast-offs are a reflection of the domination, colonisation, destruction and trauma being experienced by the ocean and the waterways.

In the presentation issues raised and discussed using the artwork included colonisation, discrimination, law, domination, contemporary identity, education, healing and renewal. Comparisons were drawn between colonization and the domination of the sea and the colonisation, domination and trauma experienced by land and people. Questions were asked about how we were shaping our world and teaching our children and our communities.

In utilising the artwork we tried to demonstrate human creativity, culture, past and present of the region and question where to in the future. We also attempted to show that there are a range of ways we can present, teach and share in discussion, academic discourse and conferences. Pamela and I look forward to working together in the future and developing more ways of sharing in cultural context with all people.